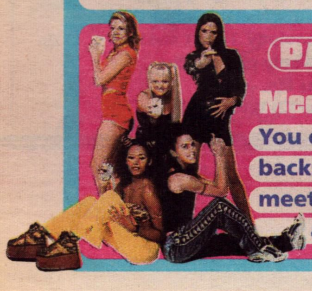
No 447 April 5, 1998

THE FUNDAY TIMES

SCOOBY-DOO! IN STRANGE VANISHING IN VEGAS

More inside



PAGE 3

Meet the fab five

You can win exclusive backstage passes to meet the Spice Girls and see the show

CENTRE PAGES

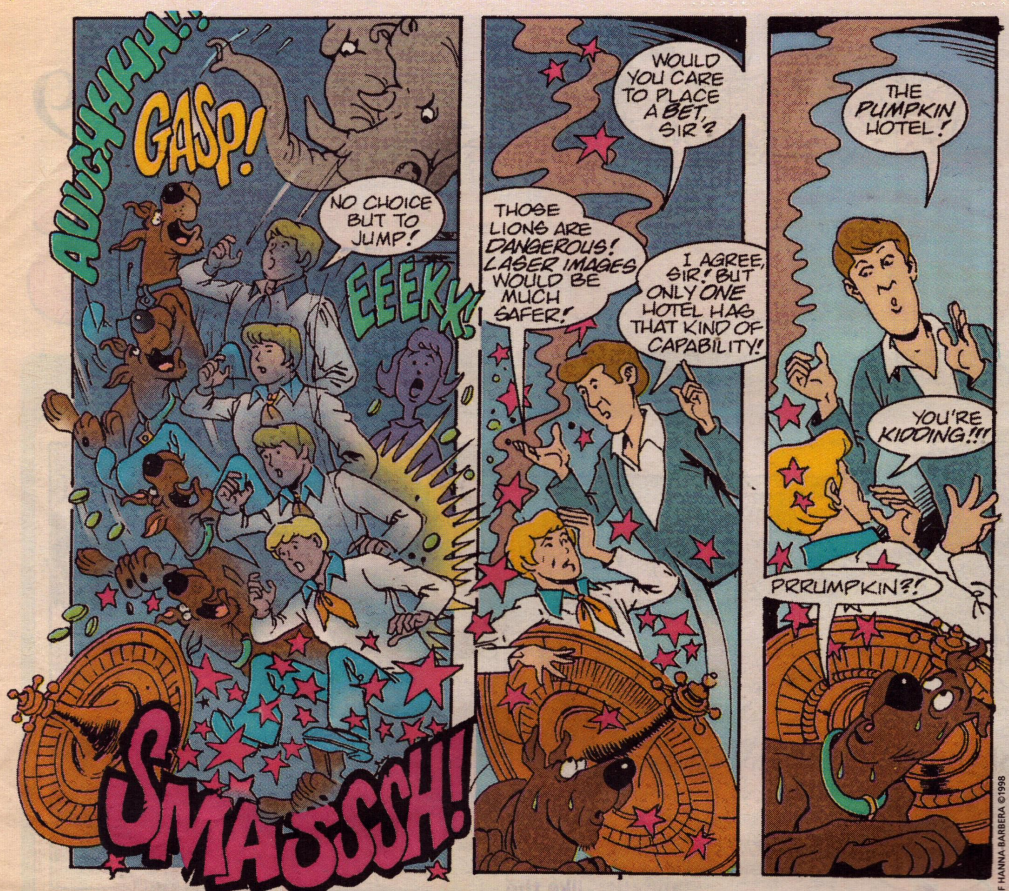
True or false?

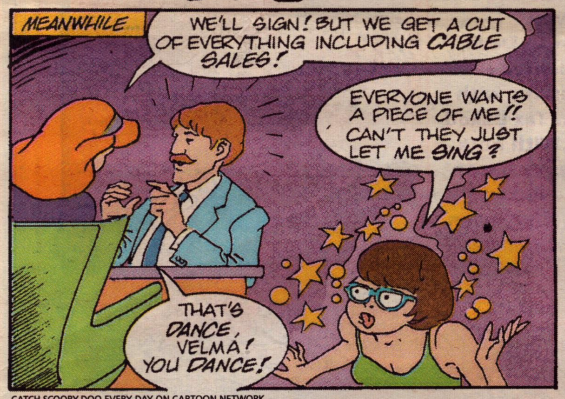
Make up your own mind about some strange myths and famous monsters

PAGE 11

Magic Marc

Meet the Arsenal player who is determined to lift the FA Cup in 1998

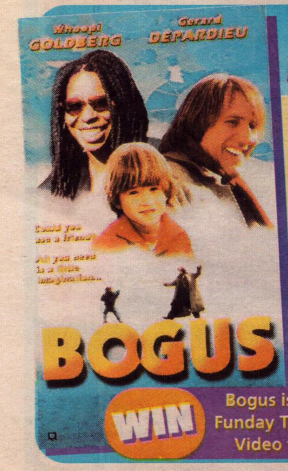




The adventure continues next week

CATCH SCOOBY-DOO EVERY DAY ON CARTOON NETWORK.

SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF HANNA-BARBERA ©1998



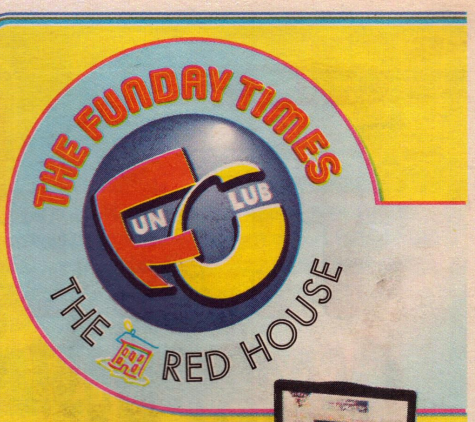
A friend in need

Ever felt in need of a friend? That's what Albert (Haley Joel Osment) feels like in the movie Bogus. His life is shattered when his mum dies in a car accident and Albert has to move house. He goes to live with his mum's friend (Whoopi Goldberg), who he's never met before – and the pair don't exactly see eye to eye. To get by, Albert creates an imaginary friend, who only he can see. He becomes the guardian angel that Albert's been looking for.

WIN Bogus is released on video tomorrow and The Funday Times has teamed up with Warner Home Video to offer ten lucky readers a free copy.

To win, just name another film starring Whoopi Goldberg.

Answers to The Fun Club address, on page 3 by April 15



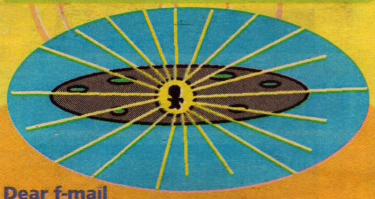
f-mail

The star letter will receive the Tiger Deluxe Ultra Pack PC, essential for aspiring scholars, and the runners-up will receive the zappy Brain Shift, a fast-moving memory game!

TIGER

Dear f-mail
When it gets beyond name calling in the playground, bullying can be a nightmare. Recently I had black ink sprayed in my face. I went straight to the police and the bullying stopped. Most people I know are, or have been, bullied in some way. I think adults should take more action in preventing, or stopping, bullying. Children should not have to put themselves in danger by defending themselves against such idiotic people.
Christie Tucker, Wickford

Dear f-mail
I love reading, but it takes me at least three weeks before I can even think about getting a book. When my dad was a kid he could buy a book, a comic and some sweets with one week's pocket money. My pocket money is more than twice as much as my dad's was! The government says children should read more, but the prices keep on going up!
Nathan Gayle, age 9, Forest Hill



Dear f-mail
Some alien sightings can be explained as air blimps, aeroplanes or secret military aircraft that only the government know about. But if what people see are aliens, I think they're probably only exploring in their highly-advanced spaceships. I think perhaps aliens were alive long before there was any life on Earth and so they have better technology. I can't see how Earth can be the only plant in the universe that has life.
Nick Waite, age 12, Wickford

 Nothing seems to be going right for Scooby-Doo and the gang at the moment!

The FUN Club

Send all your mail to us at:
The Fun Club
PO Box 15
Wetherby
LS23 7TL

Spice up your life!

The girls are back and we've teamed up with Polaroid to offer four readers, plus a mate and an adult, the chance to meet the fab five! Winners will go backstage to meet the Spice Girls and then catch them live in concert in Birmingham on Wednesday April 29 (travel not included).

To capture great moments and develop pictures in an instant, winners and their mates also get this fab Polaroid SpiceCam. Eight runners-up pick up the great new SpiceLight, the perfect accessory for reading in the dark!

Polaroid

To win, tell us the names of five spices used for cooking.

Answers to The Fun Club address, above, by April 15

COVER PICTURE: PA

Taz-mania

If you've got a monster appetite, like the mischievous Tasmanian Devil, then Heinz has the answer with its new Taz Baked Beans. With pork sausages or bacon bits, these Baked Beans will satisfy even monster hunger pangs!

To celebrate the launch of these mean beans, three readers will win a combined TV and video recorder, plus loads of Taz goodies – like videos, fluffy slippers and a remote control pouch. And the Taz surprises don't stop there! We've got 15 goody bags for runners-up!

To win, send us a drawing of Taz or his Looney Tunes friends!

Answers to The Fun Club address, above, by April 15

CARTOON STAR

WIN

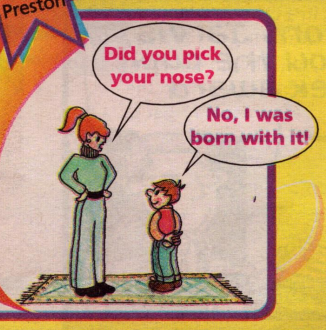
Basketball-crazy Uni-ball is offering readers a slam dunk of a prize!
The Cartoon Star wins a Uni leather-bound wallet and the range of rollerball pens, with colours from shocking pink to lime splash green and a host of basketball goodies. Runners-up get a wallet of eight signo pens and basketball goodies.

Jennifer Lutt, age 14, Harrow

What did the cannibal say when he saw the man sleeping?

Oh look! Breakfast in bed!

Chloe Rimmer, age 11, Preston



Chris Harding, age 10, Stockport

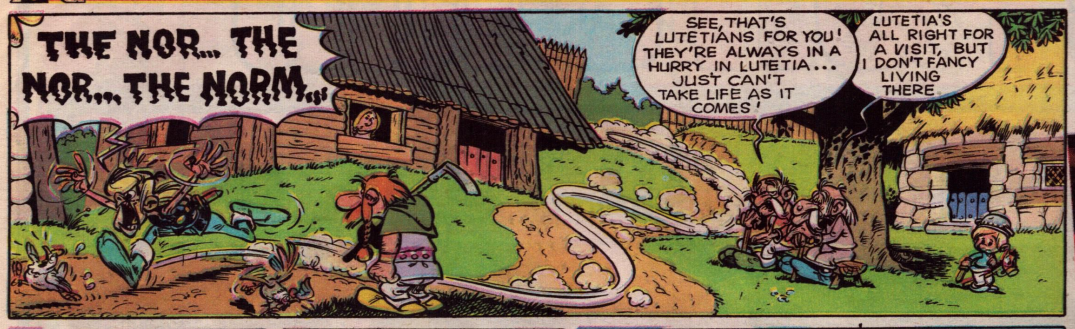
Where do you get a milkshake from?

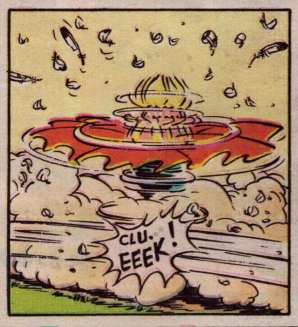
A nervous cow!

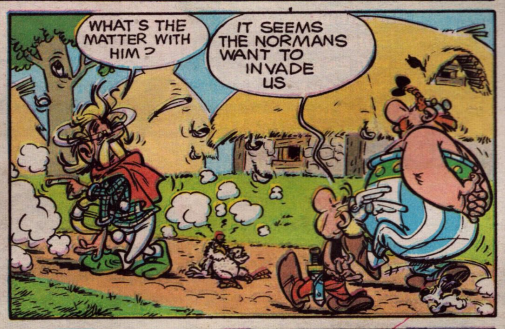
Enter our Spice Girls competition by e-mail! Send your answers to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

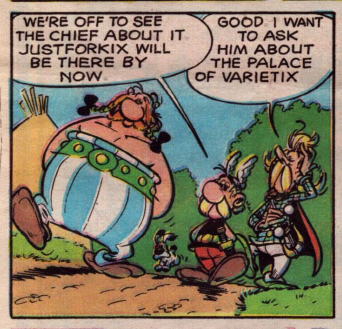
Asterix and the Normans

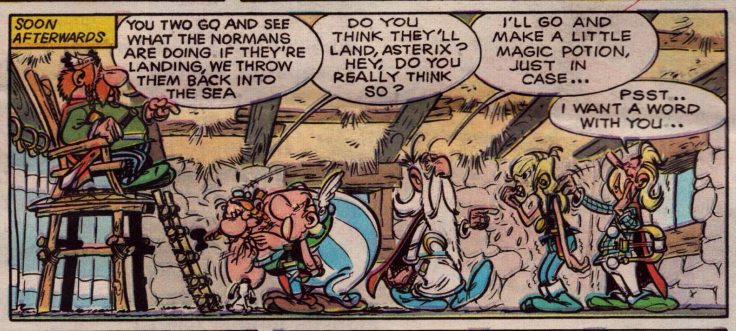
©DARGAUD ÉDITEUR PARIS 1967/HODDER & STOUGHTON 1978 BY GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

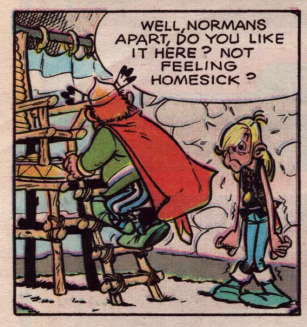


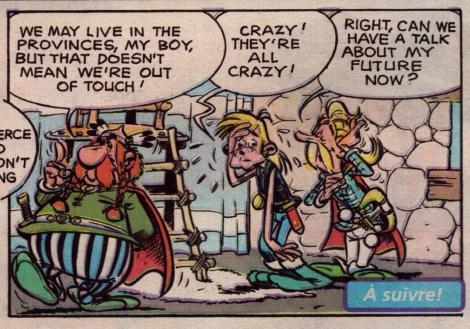












Funday Line

funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

Don't delay! Send your e-mail today

If you write to us through the Internet you have the chance to win these great CD-Roms.
The star e-mail wins the Encarta 98 Encyclopedia and Greetings Workshop Deluxe. The runners-up can choose either Encarta or Greetings Workshop.

I think that people waste too much water. Britain experiences water shortages in the summer, so why don't we save all the wasted water? I find this annoying and careless. This problem is important and it will not go away. It should be taken seriously. Just think, next year we may only be allowed 25 litres a day!
Charlie Rawson, age 10

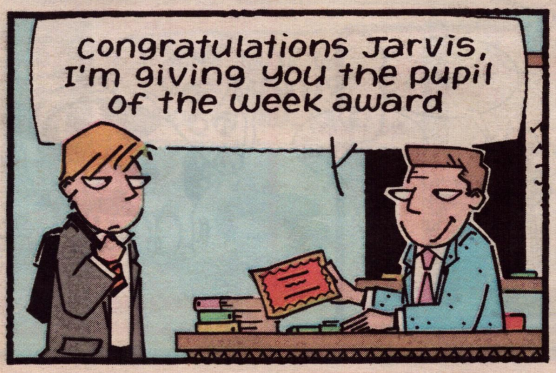
We only just got Internet access because my dad thought it would be useful. My big brother is at university and he gets free Internet access because his university thinks that, in the future, the Internet will be very important for work. I can't wait to go to university!
William Burton, age 11

A few weeks ago I bought a really scary mask which glows in the dark. One night, when I went to bed and switched the light off, I put on my mask. The mask was glowing. I then called my mum in a normal voice. When she came I popped my head out of the blanket and guess what? She was not scared, but terrified! I really frightened her.
Hasan Khizar, age 11

more info call: 0345 777464

www.lineone.net

Jarvis



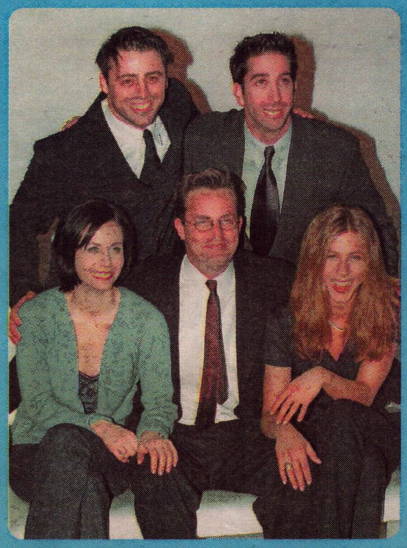
©KNIGHT FEATURES

4 Will Jarvis still be in the good books next week? Read Funday and find out

news

Funday meets the Friends

The stars of TV's Friends were in London last week to record a special two-part episode that will provide the cliffhanger ending to the show's fourth series. At a packed press conference, the Friends all laughed and joked together, proving that they have as much fun in real life as they appear to on TV. They also shared with The Funday Times their ideas about which bands they would most like to be in, if they hadn't made the series. "Oh I think a group like Heart or Aerosmith would be great," laughed Jennifer Aniston. "And I've written a lot of letters to Barry Manilow, but he hasn't actually replied to me yet!" chipped in Matthew Perry. Channel 4's headquarters were closed off by barriers and police were on hand to ensure that the Friends didn't get crushed by British fans. Courteney Cox told us that she was surprised at the amount of attention the five had received since arriving in London. "It's amazing. After I left one shop, people even took pictures of the shop – and they hadn't even given me a discount!" she giggled. Sadly, the cast was one member short. Lisa Kudrow is eight months pregnant and had to stay at home in LA – on doctor's orders! Look out for the special London episode of Friends on TV later this year.

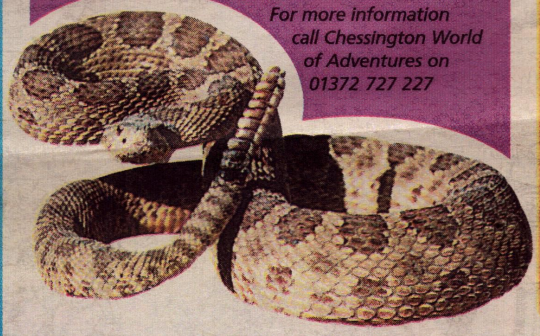


PICTURES: JEFF FOOTT © THE NATURAL HISTORY UNIT. DAVE HOGAN

Scream time

If you fancy coming face to fang with some awesome creepy crawlies, then get yourself along to Chessington World of Adventures' new Creepy Caves experience. Huge venomous snakes and awesome lizards share space with an array of deadly spiders and scorpions in Chessington's new dank, dark, mysterious caves. The sting in the tail is that there is only one way out of the sinister kingdom ... and there's certainly nowhere to hide! So make sure you're brave enough to cope with the creepiness before you step into the dark. You have been warned.

For more information call Chessington World of Adventures on 01372 727 227



Smells like trouble!

Scientists in America have invented an unusual new weapon to help fight crime – a machine that can identify suspects by their body odour. The gadget, similar to a very powerful mini vacuum cleaner, extracts smells from clothing and furniture and stores them on a gauze pad. Specially trained dogs are given the sample to sniff and they then try to pick out the culprit in an identity parade-type situation. The scent-sor is now being assessed by British police for potential use over here.

Off to the summit

There was great excitement at Rofft School in Wrexham last week when Chris Rogers, presenter of BBC's Newsround, popped in to tell the After School Club that they're going to represent the United Kingdom at the 1998 Children's Summit at Disneyland Paris.

The Summit is an annual event organised by the worldwide network of Disney magazines and UNESCO. It is a forum where kids from all round the world can get together to discuss a topic which affects their future.

The 20 new ambassadors from Wrexham, aged between 9 and 11 years, will attend the Children's Summit from May 4-8, joining kids from 49 different countries.

The Rofft School project, a newspaper called Healthier Times, was selected from hundreds of entries focussing on the importance of nutrition. Chris Rogers said: "Children realise they can make a difference – that's what the Children's Summit is all about. In fact, adults have quite a lot to learn from kids."

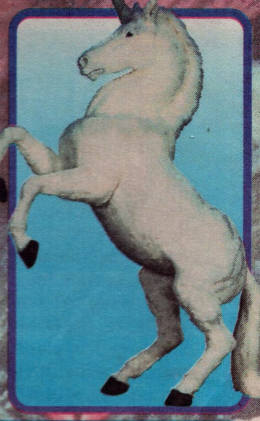
MIGHTY MYTHS

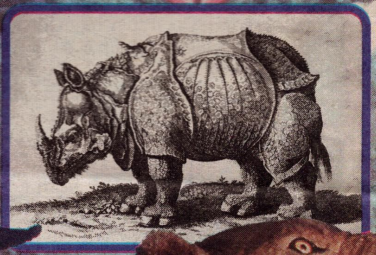
The Loch Ness Monster, fire-breathing dragons and graceful unicorns are monsters of legendary proportions. An exhibition that uncovers the truth behind these mythical beasts opens at London's Natural History Museum today and The Funday Times asked top palaeontologist, Dr Angela Milner, to reveal the truth.

BEAUTIFUL BEAST

THE MYTH The legend of the magical unicorn (right) goes back thousands of years. The lovely creature is supposed to guard against poison and its presence is a cure for many diseases. Early descriptions in 400BC refer to a ferocious animal with black horns, though the familiar image is of a gentle, white, horse-like creature with a spiralled horn.

THE EXPERT VIEW "The unicorn is connected with a large rhino (below) that lived in Siberia. It had a horse-like head and a giant horn," explains Dr Milner. "The spiral horn that we associate with a classic unicorn probably came from the spiralled ivory tooth of a small Arctic whale, called the narwhal. The myth was born when people associated the beautiful spiralled tooth that they found on beaches with a white horse, or with the horse-like rhino."

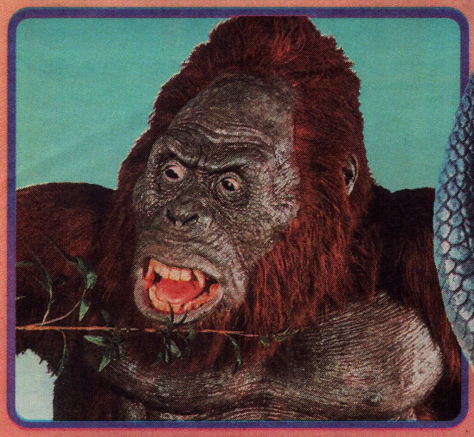




THE ABOMINABLE ONE

THE MYTH The yeti, or abominable snowman (below), is a giant, hairy human-like creature that is supposed to roam the foothills of the Himalayas, in Tibet. Pictures of an ape-like wild-man first appeared in artwork in the Middle Ages and many sightings have been reported since.

THE EXPERT VIEW "A scalp was once found that was supposed to belong to the yeti, but it was discovered to be a very clever fake made from the skin and hair of a goat," explains Dr Milner. "The most likely source of inspiration for the mythical yeti is the langur that lives in the Himalayan lowlands. The langur may only be 1m tall, but in the snowy foothills, where normal frames of visual reference are missing, it could be mistaken for something larger. And footprints left in thawing snow grow much larger than the original foot that made them."



SCARY COMBINATION

THE MYTH The chimera (right) was a creature in Greek mythology. This she-goat was a grotesque combination of a lion, a goat and a serpent! The Greek writer Homer tells us that she was the daughter of the whirlwind Typhoon and the sea monster Echidna, that was half woman and half snake.

Today, the word chimera is used to describe two organisms that contain a genetic mix, usually a result of crossbreeding or grafting.

THE EXPERT VIEW "Chimera is not related to a single living creature," points out Dr Milner. "It was just a legendary Greek concept. Today we can breed two animals to create new combinations, such as a goat and a sheep."

AND MONSTERS

HOT HISTORY

THE MYTH The fire-breathing dragon (right) is a majestic creature of beauty and terror. It is a giant reptile, with wings and razor-sharp claws. In the West, dragons symbolise power and evil, whereas in the East they are seen as creatures that live peacefully in the sky, controlling the rainfall.

"Dragons are based on the discovery of dinosaur bones (below)," says Dr Milner. "But when people found them, they had no idea what they were. People put together the bones from different creatures, and came up with a dragon. Its fire breathing may well be an association with volcanic activity."

THE EXPERT VIEW

DRAGON-LIKE The Komodo dragon (below), found on the Komodo Islands in southeast Asia, is the closest you'll find to a living dragon. The world's largest lizard is around 4m long and has a forked tongue!

SCOTTISH MYSTERY

THE MYTH Sightings of the Loch Ness monster (below) in Scotland have intrigued and terrified people for thousands of years. The first recorded Nessie sighting was in the 6th century, and it was the first of many.

"There has never been any actual scientific evidence to suggest that a plesiorsaur has been living in Loch Ness," says Dr Milner. "These huge air-breathing creatures became extinct 65 million years ago, and the photographs or evidence presented so far consist of fakes, or wave and wind effects on the surface of the loch."

THE EXPERT VIEW

Whether they are reality or myth, monsters are incredibly interesting. Here's your chance to see the Natural History Museum's amazing Myths and Monsters exhibition for yourself and make up your own mind.

We've got 10 fantastic family tickets (two adults and four children) to give away.

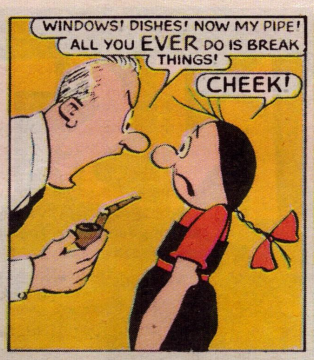
To win, tell us which famous saint fought a dragon.

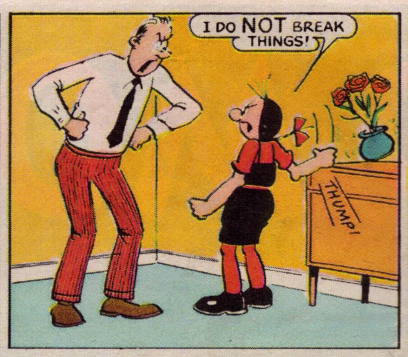
Answers to The Fun Club address, on page 3, by April 15

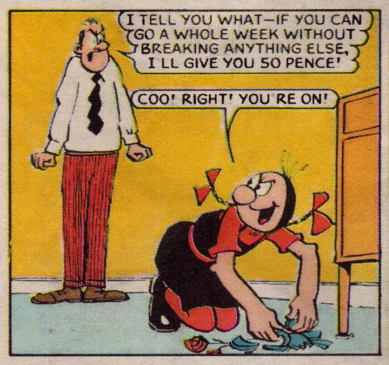
PICTURES: AFP, ARDEA, THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

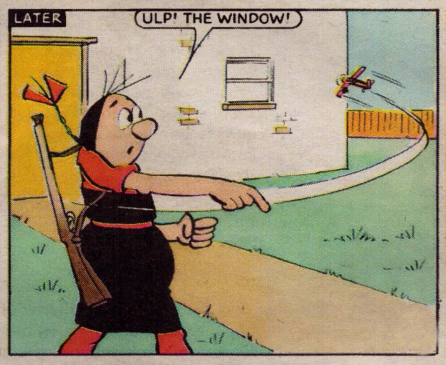
BERYL the PERIL

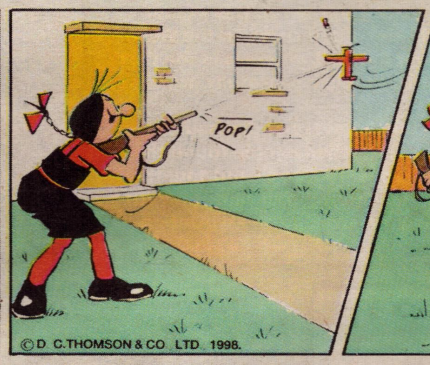
BERYL THE PERIL APPEARS EVERY WEEK IN The DANDY











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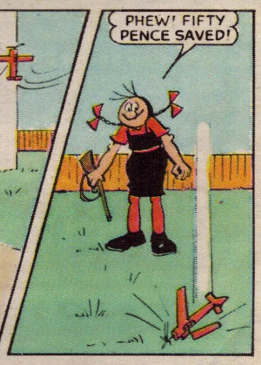
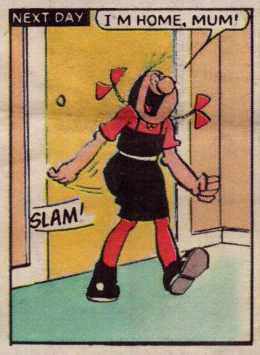
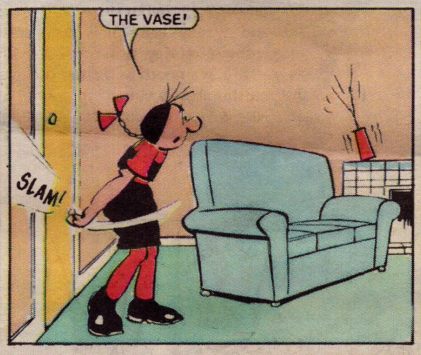
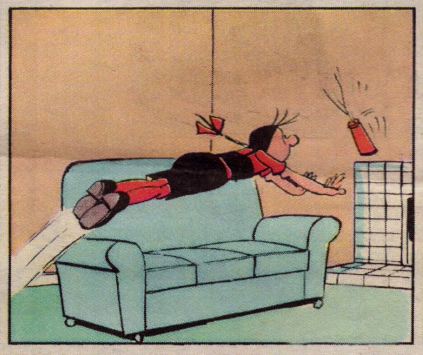
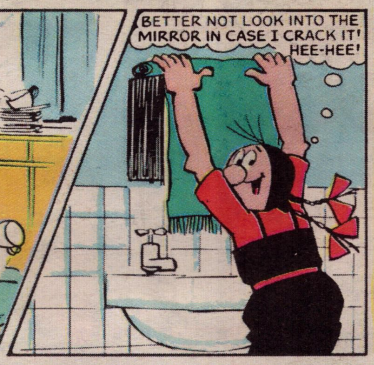
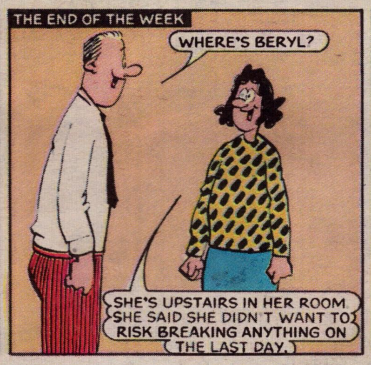


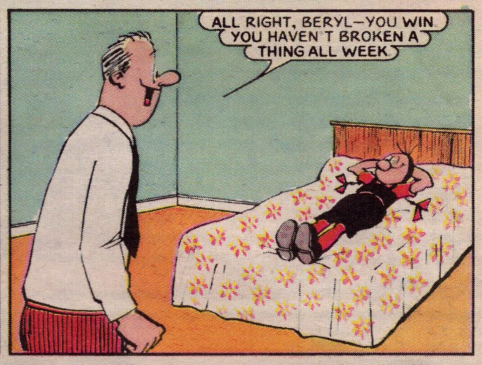


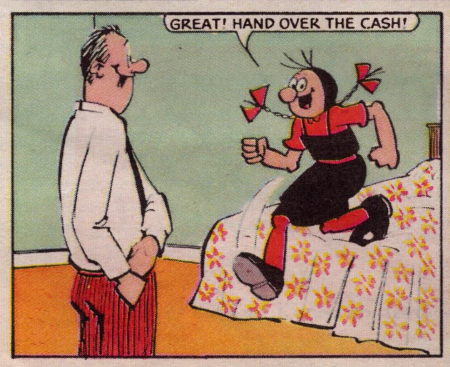


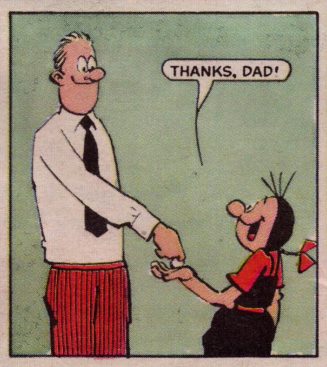


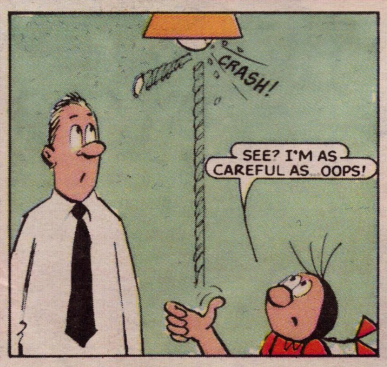












Beryl's driven dad to breaking point this time!

CREATE A CARTOON

Here's your chance to write your own cartoon strip!

LOONEY TUNES CHARACTERS, NAMES AND ALL RELATED INDICIA ARE TRADEMARKS OF WARNER BROS. ©1998

LIFT OFF

ALBUM

ALLSORTS North & South ★★★★●

They've got a hit TV show, they produce stomping singles that shoot up the charts and now they've gone and made an album too! The cheeky lads from North & South have come up with a bunch of top tracks that will keep any pop fan happy. This CD is packed with ever-so-catchy tunes that follow the tradition set by I'm A Man Not A Boy and Tarantino's New Star. Allsorts is a burst of fun, without a whiff of licorice!

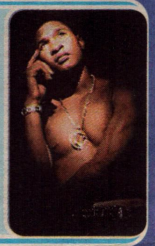
CD-ROM

THE REALLY WILD SHOW ★★★★★

The second you begin clicking your mouse, this CD-Rom takes you into a world of adventure. There are hidden animals to find, quizzes to test your zoological knowledge and sound and video clips as well. The Beast Blender is a crazy creature-crossing device for you to create some weird animal hybrids. And four superb games could fill a CD-Rom on their own.

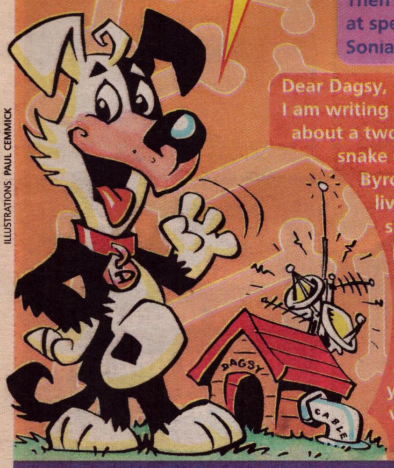
SINGLE

NICE & SLOW Usher ★★★★★



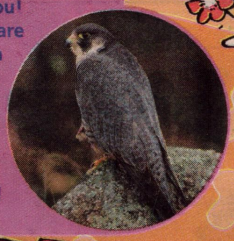
Usher is the new master of smoochy soul sound – and he's an absolutely massive star in America. The 18-year-old shot straight into the British charts at number one with his debut single You Make Me Wanna, and swanky Nice & Slow looks destined to go exactly the same way. Usher makes platinum tracks that are as smooth as melted chocolate and creamy marshmallow – yum. If you're not a big fan already, Nice & Slow will convert you instantly.

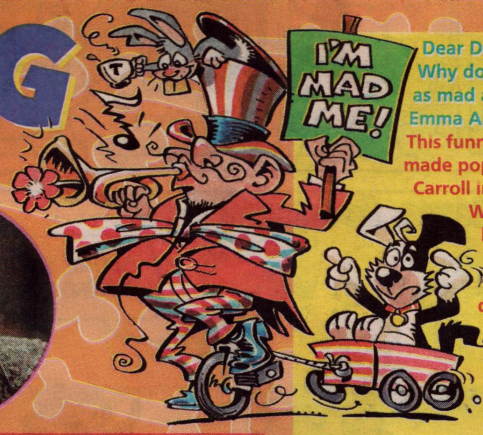
DAGSY DOG



Woof, woof!
I didn't get any questions on April Fool's Day and I hope none of you got tricked too badly. Have a good week!

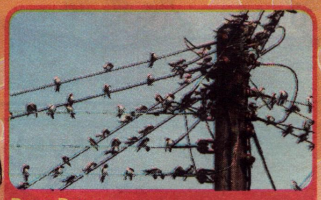
Dear Dagsy,
I have a fact for you! Peregrine falcons are the fastest birds in the world. This bird hovers high in the sky, until it spots a tasty meal. Then it dives (or stoops) at speeds up to 140mph!
Sonia Gint, Macclesfield





Dear Dagsy,
Why do people say: "You're as mad as a hatter!"?
Emma Alexander, London
This funny expression was made popular by Lewis Carroll in Alice in Wonderland. He based the Mad Hatter in his novel on a local furniture dealer called Theophilus Carter, who was very eccentric and wore a top hat. The phrase however probably originated with the use of mercurous nitrate in the making of felt hats in the 1800s. One of the side effects for the people who made the hats, because they were working with the chemical, was to behave in a peculiar manner. Hence if you made hats, you were as mad as a hatter!

Dear Dagsy,
I am writing to tell you about a two-headed snake called Byron who lives in a special park for snakes in Durban, South Africa. He is very rare! When Byron eats he uses both his heads, one to drink and one to eat. Byron is too young to be examined to see why he has two heads!
Lydia Athanasopoulou, Greece



Dear Dagsy,
Why can birds sit on electric wires but people can't touch them without getting a shock and dying?
Saoirse O'Malley, Co Galway
Birds don't get electrocuted because they only have contact with the wire. If a person touches a wire and they are not in contact with the ground or anything else, they wouldn't get a shock either.

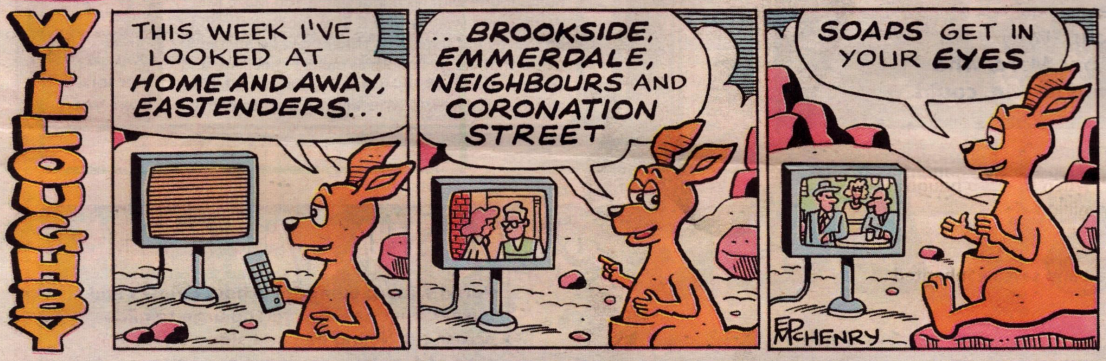
If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:
Dagsy's Kennel, PO Box 15, Wetherby LS23 7TL

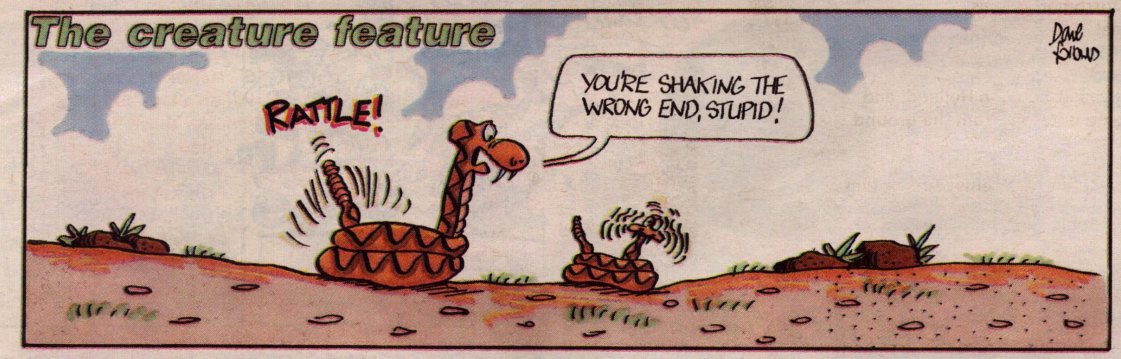
ILLUSTRATIONS PAUL CEMMICK

PICTURES ARDEA

DK P·O·C·K·E·T·S To keep his paws on the pulse Dagsy Dog uses DK Pockets, a range of pocket-sized books published by Dorling Kindersley, which give an in-depth look at a wide variety of subjects.

It's Easter next week and Dagsy is checking out rabbits!





NEXT WEEK in FUNDAY

Don't miss our story about a whale called JJ and her amazing recovery

Find out how you can get involved with the Children's Summit

Catch our exciting Easter centre spread and discover all you need to know

THE FUNDAY TIMES

sport

Marc Overmars

Dutch footballer Marc Overmars could turn out to be the crucial man for Arsenal as they try to win a place in the FA Cup Final this afternoon. The Gunners got into the semi-finals thanks to a thrilling penalty shoot-out win, but now they are determined to go all the way and lift the cup. They have a host of top players, but Marc, who is fast, skilful and determined to win, could prove the difference.

- Marc signed for Arsenal last year, when the club bought him from Ajax of Amsterdam for £7 million
- He is known for his amazing speed and says he inherited it from his mother!
- One of his best friends is fellow Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, who also plays for Arsenal
- Many of his relatives work as farmers at home in Holland, and Marc used to help out as a lad, digging potatoes from the ground
- He nearly signed for Arsenal in 1993, but Ajax refused to let him go. Four years later, the London club got their man!

PREDICTION

Funday thinks ...

The Five Nations rugby tournament comes to an end this afternoon with an exciting clash between two of the sport's biggest names – Wales and France. In past years, Wales dominated rugby, but they have fallen behind more recently while the rest of the world has improved. These days France are certainly one of the strongest teams playing anywhere. We're tipping the French to record an easy win and confirm their position as Europe's top nation this season – a big boost to their confidence with the World Cup coming up next year.

Funday Times Prediction:
France to beat Wales by 31 points to 9

WIN Slip and glide

Bored with queuing for school dinners and buses? Anyone who has the urge to glide across the dining hall and along to the bus stop needs to get hold of Soap grinding skate shoes from the USA. Fast on concrete, wood and marble – you'll be sliding everywhere! Slick dudes can use them for regular walking too, since they've got replaceable grindplates incorporated within the soles. We've got eight pairs to give away (in sizes 4 to 11).

To win, tell us the coolest place you'd like to glide in your Soap shoes.

Answers, along with your shoe size, to the FC address, on page 3, by April 15

PICTURES EMPICS
COVER PICTURE EMPICS

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Order by phone today!

The Red House produces a monthly magazine which is crammed full of all the top children's books at affordable prices, so you'll have plenty of choice when spending your £5 voucher. New Fun Club members get six copies of The Red House Post in the mail and a special members' letter.

THE FUNDAY TIMES FUN CLUB THE RED HOUSE

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NON MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER ALL FUNDAY TIMES COMPETITIONS. ENTRIES TO ALL COMPETITIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE FUN CLUB ADDRESS.

Live pets

Your favourite Looney Tunes characters and Rugrats mates are back once again. These new Giga Pets Plus from Tiger have real voices and will respond to the sound of your voice too! Plus, you'll be able to keep up to four characters alive at any time, wherever you take them.

The first 25 readers to join The Fun Club by phone this week, and the first 25 by post, will get either a Rugrats Giga Pet or a Looney Tunes Giga Pet.

TIGER

*Please make me a member of The Fun Club for 12 months and rush me my Funfax for £4.99 + £1 P&P

Male Female
Date of birth / /
Favourite hobby
First name
Surname
Method of payment
Cheque/PO Visa Mastercard
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Address
Postcode
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LUCKY NUMBER

220726

If this is your lucky membership number, please write to The Fun Club address on page 3 (letting us know your age and size) and win a fantastic Fox Kids jacket.

WIN

Fox Kids is the pacy, exciting cable and satellite channel that can be seen every day between 6am and 7pm. Catch the Sweet Valley Highs and lows every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6pm.